



SMALL GAME & FURBEARERS

Laura Patton photo

SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

SMALL GAME	Hunting	Trapping
Squirrel	Aug. 18 - Nov. 9 and Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013	Noon, Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 29, 2012 - Jan. 4, 2013	

FURBEARERS	Hunting	Trapping
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 1, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013	Noon Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013
Coyote	Year-round	
Bobcat	Noon Nov. 24, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013	
River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	Noon Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 29, 2012 - Jan. 4, 2013	

Seasons on WMAs and other public hunting lands not managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife may be different from statewide seasons. Please check individual area listings, beginning on page 44.

Rabbit & Quail

Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 10, 2013, in the following counties: Allen, Ballard, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Fulton, Graves, Hancock, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McLean, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren and Webster. **Rabbits may be trapped** noon Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 10, 2013 in these counties.

Nov. 1-9 and Nov. 12, 2012 - Jan. 31, 2013 in all other counties. **Rabbits may be trapped** noon Nov. 12, 2012 - Jan. 31, 2013 in these counties.

Statewide, quail may not be trapped.

Grouse

Nov. 1-9 and Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013 in the following counties only: Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Bracken, Breathitt, Campbell, Carter, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Garrard, Greenup, Harlan, Harrison, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Lincoln, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, Mason, McCreary, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Pendleton, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Robertson, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe.

Statewide, grouse may not be trapped.

SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

Season dates and bag limits for small game and furbearer species that can be hunted or trapped in Kentucky are listed in this section.

Rabbits and squirrels may be trapped during the dates listed in the table and adjacent boxes. Hunting bag limits apply. Trapping equipment and restrictions are the same as those listed in the furbearer section. A trapping license is required for anyone 12 years of age and older. Trappers must harvest furbearers, squirrels and rabbits upon capture, unless they possess a captive wildlife permit from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Quail and grouse may not be trapped.

FREE YOUTH WEEK

Resident and nonresident youth hunters and trappers ages 15 and under may hunt and trap small game and furbearers without a hunting or trapping license Dec. 29 - Jan. 4, 2013.

Hunter orange clothing must be worn by all hunters on Dec. 29-30, 2012 since youth hunters are also permitted to hunt deer with firearms at that time.

Youth hunters must abide by all equipment regulations and bag limits for small game and furbearers when hunting or trapping.

Hunter education is not required for license-exempt hunters. Adults accompanying youth hunters/trappers during the Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week do not need a license if they are not hunting/trapping.

Hunter orange required!

Kentucky's Hunter Orange Clothing Law requires ALL HUNTERS and persons accompanying them, hunting for any species during the modern gun, muzzleloading, and youth firearm deer seasons, or a firearm elk or bear season, to wear solid, unbroken hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest.



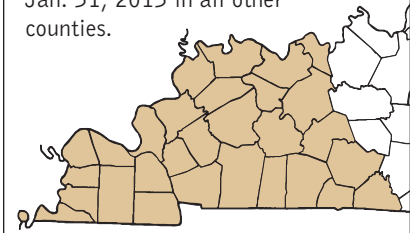
Have questions? Scan this symbol with your smartphone for quick access to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website!

RESTRICTIONS FOR SMALL GAME SEASONS

Rabbit & Quail Hunting Seasons

Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 10, 2013 in shaded counties.

Nov. 1-9 and Nov. 12, 2012 - Jan. 31, 2013 in all other counties.



The following animals are considered small game: squirrels, rabbits, northern bobwhite (quail) and grouse. Check the table on page 28 for small game season dates.

EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

See box at right. Also, on some WMAs, special equipment restrictions apply, as noted in the Public Land Hunting section of this guide.

BAG LIMITS

- **Squirrel:** Daily limit is 6; possession limit is 12.
- **Rabbit:** Daily limit is 4; possession limit is 8.
- **Quail:** Daily limit is 8; possession limit is 16.
- **Grouse:** Daily limit is 4; possession limit is 8.

Q: Is there a limit on the number of rounds a magazine can hold when hunting small game with a rimfire .17 or .22?

A: No. There is no limit on a rimfire gun's magazine capacity when hunting small game.

LEGAL SMALL GAME EQUIPMENT

Hunting small game with slingshots is prohibited.

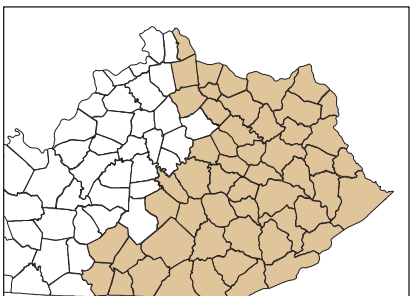
Hunters may ONLY use the following to take small game during the fall and winter seasons:

- Rifles that shoot rimfire ammunition, or .22 caliber handguns.
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 2.
- Muzzleloading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20 or .22 caliber airguns.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.
- Falconry.

Grouse Hunting Season

Nov. 1-9 and Nov. 12, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013 in the shaded counties only.

Grouse hunting is also allowed on Pennyrite-Tradewater WMA and Ft. Knox during the month of December, except during quota deer hunts.



RESTRICTIONS FOR FURBEARER SEASONS

The following animals are considered furbearers: mink, muskrat, beaver, raccoon, opossum, gray fox, red fox, weasel, river otter, bobcat, coyote and striped skunk. Check the table on page 28 for furbearer hunting and trapping season dates. Furbearers may NOT be taken with slingshots.

EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

See boxes at right. Also, on some WMAs, special equipment restrictions apply, as noted in the Public Land Hunting section of this guide.

RIVER OTTER

In 58 counties in northern, central and western Kentucky, the season bag limit for river otters is ten (10) per person.

The River Otter Zone 1 counties are: Anderson, Ballard, Bath, Boone, Bourbon, Bracken, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Caldwell, Calloway, Campbell, Carlisle, Carroll, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Fayette, Fleming, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Grant, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Hopkins, Jefferson, Kenton, LaRue, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, Mason, McCracken, McLean, Meade, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Nicholas, Ohio, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Rowan, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Trigg, Trimble, Union, Webster and Woodford.

In the River Otter Zone 2 counties (the remaining 62 counties), the season limit for river otters is six (6) per person.

BOBCAT HUNTING & TRAPPING

Bobcats may be taken statewide and the season limit is five (5) bobcats

LEGAL EQUIPMENT FOR HUNTING FURBEARERS

- Muzzleloading or modern rifles or handguns of any caliber.
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead, or non-toxic shot of all sizes, including buckshot.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Dogs.
- Falconry.

per person. Only three (3) may be taken with a gun.

LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE

Bobcats and otters may be taken by hunting during daylight hours or by trapping. The appropriate hunting or trapping license is required. Hunters may use hand- or mouth-operated calls, electronic calls, or attracting devices. Harvested bobcats and otters must be telechecked by calling 1-800-245-4263 **by midnight on the day the animal is recovered.** (This is the same checking system as for deer, elk, turkeys and bears.)

A hunter or trapper who wants to have a bobcat or otter mounted shall provide his or her Telecheck confirmation number to the taxidermist. Taxidermists cannot legally accept an unchecked otter or bobcat for mounting.

Hunters or trappers who intend to sell the raw fur of an otter or bob-

LEGAL EQUIPMENT FOR TRAPPING FURBEARERS

Trappers may use lights from boats or vehicles.

There are no restrictions on traps used as water sets.

The following equipment is permitted for dry-land sets, but traps may NOT be set closer than ten (10) feet apart, and traps may NOT be set in trails/paths commonly used by humans or domestic animals.

- Deadfalls, wire cages or box traps.
- Foothold traps with a maximum inside jaw spread of six (6) inches measured perpendicular to the hinges.
- Body-gripping traps with a maximum inside jaw spread of seven and one-half (7.5) inches measured parallel with the trigger.
- Snares.

cat must go online to fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549, provide their Telecheck confirmation number and request a CITES tag. The CITES tag shall be attached to and remain with the pelt until it is processed. Possession of an unused bobcat or otter CITES tag is prohibited.

Bobcat hunting and trapping is also permitted at Land Between the Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area. See page 54 for contact information.

RACCOON & OPOSSUM HUNTING SEASON

During modern gun deer season, raccoon and opossum hunters may not hunt during daylight hours. Night hunting on Friday, Nov. 9, 2012 shall conclude by a half-hour before sunrise on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012, which is when shooting hours open for modern gun deer season.

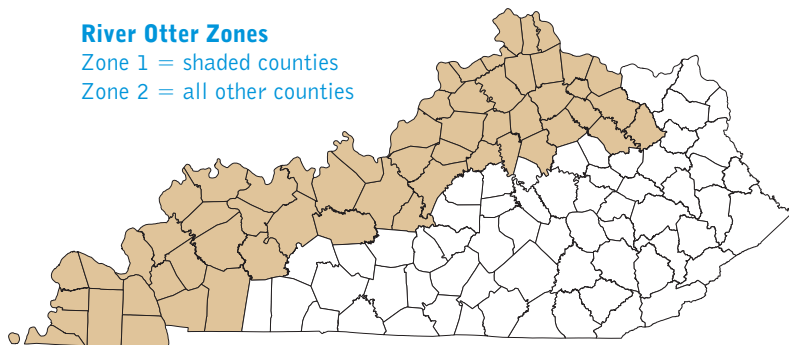
RACCOON & OPOSSUM TRAPPING SEASON

No bag limit. Raccoons and opossums may not be taken with the aid of lights from a boat except by trapping.

River Otter Zones

Zone 1 = shaded counties

Zone 2 = all other counties



MINK, MUSKRAT, BEAVER, RED FOX, GRAY FOX, WEASEL & STRIPED SKUNK

These species may be taken by hunting or trapping, with no bag limits.

COYOTE HUNTING

Coyotes may be hunted statewide, year-round, with no bag limit. Coyotes may NOT be hunted at night. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Both mouth calls and electronic calls that imitate wounded prey or coyote calls are legal. It is also legal to hunt coyotes over animal carcasses. A hunting license is required to hunt coyotes, unless license exempt.

COYOTE TRAPPING SEASON

Trapping coyotes is permitted only during the furbearer season, except landowners with nuisance coyote problems should contact their local conservation officer when trapping outside furbearer season. A trapping license is required to trap coyotes unless license exempt.

RUNNING THE TRAP LINE

All traps must bear a metal tag giving the name and address of the trapper, or a unique identification number as specified in KAR 2:251.

Any trap found without a tag can be immediately confiscated by the department without a court order. Land-



Sample trap tags

owner permission is required for trapping.

All traps must be visited at least once every 24 hours and all animals removed.

It is illegal to intentionally obstruct or disrupt the right of a person to lawfully take wildlife by trapping.

BUYING AND SELLING FURS & HIDES

There is no time restriction on the holding of raw furs of furbearers by a trapper or hunter after the close of furbearer season.

Raw furs (including hides from legally harvested deer) may be sold only to licensed taxidermists, licensed fur buyers or licensed fur processors.

Wildlife carcasses (except certain species produced by licensed propagators) may not be bought or sold.

Inedible parts of legally taken wildlife (including deer or elk antlers, and turkey fans or spurs) may only be sold to licensed taxidermists for the purpose of mounting. Wildlife mounts may be sold to or purchased from licensed taxidermists only.

HELP WITH BOBCAT RESEARCH!

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is collecting bobcat carcasses for statewide studies of reproduction and age structure. If you would like to donate a carcass, please write the county, specific location (GPS location, creek name, road name, intersection, etc.), date the animal was trapped, hunted, or road-killed and collector name, address and phone number on a piece of paper. Enclose the paper in a Ziploc bag and attach it to the carcass. Please keep the carcass frozen and call 1-800-858-1549 to have it picked up.

Spotted skunks are protected year-round and may not be taken or possessed.

HOW FURBEARER HUNTERS & TRAPPERS CAN HELP

The raccoon strain of rabies has not been detected in Kentucky. However, it occurs in neighboring states east of the Appalachians.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is working in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to monitor the westward spread of raccoon rabies and the potential occurrence in Kentucky.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is asking that hunters and trappers donate heads from raccoons, coyotes, skunks, and red and gray foxes from the following counties: Bell, Boyd, Bracken, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Fleming, Floyd, Greenup, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Martin, Mason, McCreary, Perry, Pike, Robertson and Whitley.

Please remove the animal's head and place it in a Ziploc bag and freeze it. Label the bag with the species, county, specific location, date the animal was collected, sex and age if known, and collector name, address, and phone number.

Please call USDA at 1-866-487-3297 or Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549 when you are ready for the heads to be picked up.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife thanks you for your assistance in managing Kentucky's furbearer populations!

Your input is important!

Hunting logs help us monitor population trends for rabbit, quail, grouse and squirrels.

~ get a ~
FREE
hunting cap and annual report
with completed hunting log

Go to fw.ky.gov/smallgamelogs.asp or call 1-800-858-1549 to get a survey and instructions.



OTHER HUNTING SEASONS

OTHER SPECIES	Hunting
Crow	Sept. 1 - Nov. 7, 2012 and Jan. 4 - Feb. 28, 2013
Bullfrog	Noon May 18 - Oct. 31, 2012
Falconry	Sept. 1, 2012 - Mar. 30, 2013
Groundhog	year-round
Wild Pig*	year-round, except Big South Fork NRA

*It is illegal to possess live wild pigs in Kentucky; all trapped pigs must be killed at the trap site, and not released or moved. Wild pigs may not be hunted at night.

FALCONRY SEASON

The limit for this hunting method is two (2) of any small game or furbearer species per falconer per day, except during the fall and winter hunting season when the limits are the same as for other methods. Falconers must possess a falconry permit, as well as a valid Kentucky hunting license, and obey all applicable state and federal laws.

CROW SEASON

A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt. A Kentucky Migratory Bird Permit is not required.

Electronic or mechanical calling devices may be used during the open seasons. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

There is no daily or possession limit on crows.

Crows observed committing or about to commit acts of depredation may be taken year-round; however, persons attempting to take depredating crows shall not use blinds, decoys, calls or other lures to attract birds into shooting range during the closed season.

BULLFROG SEASON

Bullfrog season opens at noon on the third Friday in May, and runs through the end of October.

The daily limit (noon to noon) is 15; possession limit is 30.

If bullfrogs are taken by gun or bow and arrow, a hunting license is required. If taken by pole and line, a fishing license is required. If frogs are taken by gig or by

hand, either a hunting or fishing license is valid. It is illegal to possess a gig on a stream or lake, or in a boat, from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31.

TURTLES

Snapping turtles and soft shell turtles may be taken year-round with no bag limit. Alligator snapping turtles cannot be harvested.

A hunting license is required if turtles are taken by gun or bow and arrow. Consult the 2012-13 Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide for information on other legal means of harvest.

WILD PIGS

Wild pigs may be hunted statewide, year-round, with no bag limit, except Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.

Wild pigs out-compete native wildlife for food, damage crops, and carry diseases. Landowners are strongly encouraged to remove wild pigs from their property. Trapping, which is legal year-round, is the most effective method of removal.

Tell your local conservation officer about the use of snares and/or corral traps on your property.

Wild pigs must be killed at the trap site, and not released. It is illegal to possess, sell or transport wild pigs in Kentucky.

Report sightings, illegal activities related to wild pigs, and get advice on

trapping by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549.

Wild pigs may be hunted in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area from Sept. 1, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013, but hunters must have a permit from the National Park Service.

GROUNDHOGS

Groundhogs may be hunted statewide, year-round, with no bag limit. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.

BIRDS

Exotic, non-native birds (pheasant, chukar, English sparrow, starling, and Eurasian collared dove) may be hunted year-round without a hunting license, with no bag limit.

However, pheasants released during quota hunts are not open to year-round hunting on Green River WMA, Clay WMA and Yellowbank WMA.

All birds of prey and songbirds are protected under state and federal laws.

HOOFED STOCK

Exotic, non-native hoofed stock, except white-tailed deer and elk, may be hunted year-round without a hunting license, and with no bag limit or checking requirement.

However, the fallow deer on Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area are not open to year-round hunting.

MAMMALS

All species of mice, moles, and rats are unprotected species and may be taken year-round without a hunting license.

However, the spotted skunk, a rare species found in eastern and southeastern Kentucky, is protected and may not be taken.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

All threatened or endangered species are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

All species of terrestrial invertebrates (such as worms and insects) are unprotected and may be taken year-round without a hunting license.